6th May 1954]

(b) how many are in South Arcot; and

(c) the considerations governing the opening of such centres?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Sixteen.

" (b) One.

" (c) Post-war schemes 92 and 99 provide for the opening of the centres."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Is there any proposal before Government to open any centre in South Arcot district in addition to the existing centres? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no such proposal."

[* 542 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question will be taken up afterwards."]

Hours of duty and off-days of nurses in hospitals.

* 543 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the hours of duty for nurses working in—

(i) the Madras City Hospitals; and

(ii) Government hospitals in mufassal places;

(b) the number of days they are off-duty in a month; and

(c) the hours of duty allotted to nurses?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) *to* (c) The hours of duty and the off-days of nurses are fixed with reference to the local conditions and the convenience of the respective hospitals. They are not the same in all the hospitals in the State."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, the hours of duty for nurses in the City hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In the Government General Hospital it is 7½ hours day duty on the first day and 9½ hours on the second day. The number of off-days in a month are five half days and one full day. One night off for night duty nurses. In the Stanley Hospital, it is 7½ hours day duty on first day and 10½ hours for night duty. Nine hours day duty for the second day. Three half days on week days and half a day on every alternate Sunday and one full day are off-days in a month and one night off for night duty nurses. In the Government Hospital for Women and Children, day duty nine hours, night duty 10½ hours. Two days off in a month."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know, Sir, how many beds a nurse attends?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The present proportion is one nurse for eight beds."

[6th May 1954

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that discriminatory treatment is shown between male and female nurses inasmuch as male nurses are made to work for longer hours than female nurses in the Government General Hospital, Madras? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am not aware of any such discrimination between men and women nurses, Sir."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that the number of nurses in a hospital is not increased in proportion to the increase in the number of patients in the hospitals and if so, what measures have been taken by Government to see that the existing staff of nurses is not made to work unduly long hours? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the number of nurses is fixed with reference to the sanctioned bed-strength."

SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI :—" Is it the practice in the General Hospital to keep a nurse on night duty throughout the month? As a patient, I have myself found some nurses swooning while on duty because of the strain caused by continuous night duty. Will the Government consider the desirability of reducing the period of night duty from one month to a fortnight or a week or something like that? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, there has been no complaint on that score. This has been the practice for a very long time."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know, Sir, why quarters are not provided for male nurses in the district headquarters hospitals? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member give notice of a separate question."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" I do not wish to challenge the information given by the Hon. Minister. But I wish to know whether it is a fact that a nurse on an average attends only to eight beds when the hospitals are so overcrowded. The nurses do not complain for fear they will not be retained in their jobs."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said the proportion fixed is one nurse for eight beds in non-training institutions. In training institutions one nurse and 2½ pupil-nurses are provided for every 15 beds."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that the physical fitness of female nurses have got to be periodically certified by men doctors and if so, why should it be so? Why should not that function be discharged by lady doctors? " (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" That has nothing to do with the main question."

6th May 1954]

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Would the Hon. Minister for Health consider whether in view of the lack of efficiency on account of long working hours fixed for nurses, the working hours for nurses, male and female, be restricted to only eight hours a day so that more nurses could be absorbed and better efficiency could be assured? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The number of nurses is being increased from time to time as necessity arises."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The Hon. Minister said that the nurses get one off-duty day in a month. That means the nurses have to work for more days and hours. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to grant them one off-day every week? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that the number of nurses is fixed in the ratio of one nurse for every eight beds. Generally, there are twice the sanctioned number of patients in hospitals. May I know who looks after the extra patients, the patients admitted in excess of the sanctioned strength? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We have recently had a conference to consider this question and it is proposed to reduce the number of patients admitted so that the nurses and the nursing orderlies may not be made to do very heavy work and also the patients may not suffer for want of proper attention."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, the specific point that I raised was the reduction of the working hours to eight hours for nurses, both female and male. I want to know whether that suggestion commends itself to the Hon. Minister or not? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, no representation has been made by the nurses on this matter. No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government at present."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Sir, while answering a supplementary question the Hon. the Minister for Public Health said that, in order to reduce the number of hours of work of the nurses, the Government propose to reduce the number of extra beds which were required consequent on the increase in the number of patients. Will the Government consider the question of appointing more nurses to look after the extra beds instead of reducing the number of beds? " 8-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I have already said that the number of nurses is being increased from time to time as necessity arises. There is, however, a limit to the increase that could be made and financial considerations stand in the way."

[6th May 1954

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I suggest that questions Nos. 544 and 545 be taken up together. Question No. 542 can also be taken up now."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We shall now take up questions Nos. 544 and 545 and then take up question No. 542."

Amendment of the Madras Educational Rules.

* 544 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the reason for amending the Madras Educational Rules during February 1954, for punishing negligent teachers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Certain lacunae were noticed in the old rules and the amendments were made to remove them. The object of the Government in amending the rules has been clarified in Press Note No. 22, dated 18th March 1954."

* 545 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government consulted any organizations of headmasters or teachers or other educational organizations and Members of Legislative Council elected by teachers, before amending the rules regarding the dismissal of headmasters or teachers;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representations regarding the amendments and alterations so made; and

(*c*) if so, whether any action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Presumably the hon. Member refers to the amendments to the Madras Educational Rules published recently. No representations have been received by the Government against the amendments. Certain criticisms have appeared in the newspapers about these amendments. A Press Note (No. 22, dated 18th March 1954) has been issued clarifying the position and pointing out the misapprehensions on which the criticisms are based."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, சர்க்காருடைய அறிக்கையின் பிரகாரம் ஒரு உபாத்தியாயர் அவருடைய வேலையைச் சரியாகச் செய்யாவிட்டாலும், நாசகார வேலைகளில் சம்பந்தப் பட்டார் என்று தெரிந்தாலும், அவருடைய சர்டிபிகேட்டை ரத்து செய்யலாம் அல்லது அவர் வேலையிலிருநது நீக்கப்படலாம் என்று இருக்கிறது. அவ்வித மான சட்டம் காலேஜ் புரொபசர்களுக்கும், பிரின்சிபாலுகளுக்கும் பொருந் தாது என்று இருக்கிறது. வன் காலேஜ புரொபசர்களுக்கும், பிரின்சிபால் களுக்கு மாத்திரம் அந்தச் சட்டம் பொருந்தாது என்று கேட்கிறேன். நாசகார வேலை என்பது என்ன என்பதையும் கனம் மந்திரி தெரிவிக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கின்றேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, these rules do not affect them. There are other rules regulating the conduct of lecturers and professors appointed in the colleges."